

National Park Service

Little River Canyon National Preserve



Green Pitcher Plant



Endangered species found
at Little River Canyon
National Preserve

Green Pitcher Plant

- Endangered species are very close to becoming **extinct**. This species was put on the endangered species list on September 21, 1979.
- Extinct** is when no more of that species is living and reproducing. The dinosaur is extinct.



Little River Canyon National Preserve

Green Pitcher Plant

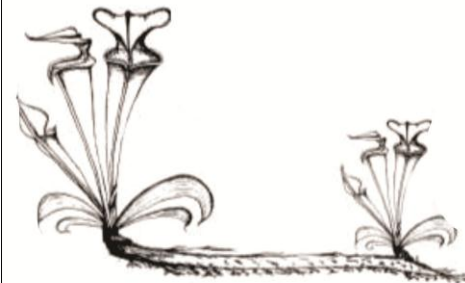
- Their **habitat** including hardwood or pine flatwoods, seepage bogs, and stream banks. Fire plays a major role in enhancing the habitat and increasing the populations in the preserve.
- A **habitat** is an environment where a plant or animal lives.



Little River Canyon National Preserve

Green Pitcher Plant

- The plants reproduce two ways (seeds & cloning).
- Seeds. Insects pollinate the flower of the plant. If conditions are right, the seed produces a new Green Pitcher Plant.
- The most common way the plant reproduces is by **cloning**. The roots of the plant are close to the top of the ground, so it simply makes another plant from the root.
- **Cloning** is the process of producing a genetically identical copy.



Green Pitcher Plant

- It is a **carnivorous** perennial (lives more than 2 years) herb with yellowish-green, hollow, pitcher-shaped leaves.
- The pitchers contain liquid and enzymes which help the plant digest insects that climb or fall into the plant.
- Short, stiff hairs inside the pitcher pointing downwards allow insects into the plant but prevent them from crawling out.
- **Carnivorous** plants are plants that get some or most of their nutrients from trapping and digesting insects.



Green Pitcher Plant

- The lid or hood is at the top of the plant. It's purpose is to prevent too much rain water from diluting the enzymes in the pitcher.
- The main body is the pitcher shaped tube. The plant produces a nectar that entices insects inside the pitcher. The insects become trapped and are digested by enzymes. The pitcher ranges from 8-30 inches tall and has purple veins.
- **Basal leaves** are shorter flat sickle shaped leaves at the bottom of the plant.
- A **basal leaf** is one that grows from the lowest part of the stem.



Lid or hood

pitcher

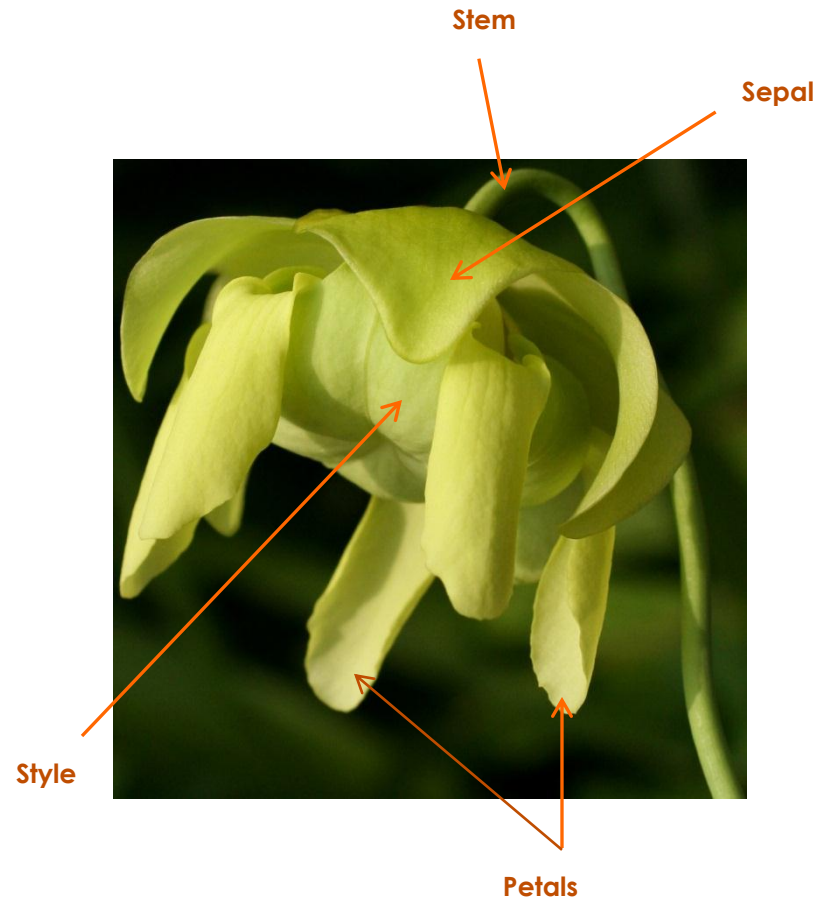


Basal leaves

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Green Pitcher Plant

- The color of the flowers vary. (green, yellow or yellow-green)
- The blooms appear in mid spring and continue into late spring.
- The stem is long and narrow.
- There are five sepals and five petals.
- The style is shaped like an upside-down umbrella. It holds the **pollen**.
- **Pollen** is a fine to coarse powder containing the seeds of the plant.



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Green Pitcher Plant

- Classification

Kingdom – Plantae – Plants

Subkingdom – Tracheobionta - Vascular Plants

Superdivision – Spermatophyta – Seed Plants

Division – Magnoliophyta – Flowering Plants

Class – Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons

Subclass – Dilleniidae

Order – Nepenthales

Family – Sarraceniaceae – Pitcher Plant Family

Genus – Sarracenia L. – Pitcher Plant

Species – Sarracenia oreophila – Green Pitcher Plant



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